

THE WORLD

Social Democrats against 'star wars'

Bonn, West German political and public circles have sharply criticized a government statement by Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag supporting the American plans of "star wars" and favouring West German participation in US military space projects. Contrary to the will of the clear majority of West German citizens rejecting West German participation in the American plans for militarization of space, Kohl yielded to Washington's pressure, sacrific-

ing the national interests of West Germany, stressed member of the central board of the German Communist Party Ellen Weber.

Summing up the parliamentary debate on the government statement, the "Vorwärts" weekly of the Social Democratic Party of Germany stressed that the Social Democrats resolutely opposed the American "star wars" plans and West German participation in this extremely dangerous scheme.

Statement by the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation

Brussels. At its extended meeting here the secretariat of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation adopted a statement dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Victory over Hitlerite fascism.

The peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition, in fighting the common enemy—fascism—proved that neither differences in political and social systems nor in views are obstacles for a joint struggle against a common

threat, the document emphasizes. Today, when the world is facing the threat of nuclear disaster, only the unity and cohesion of all peace-loving forces can avert it.

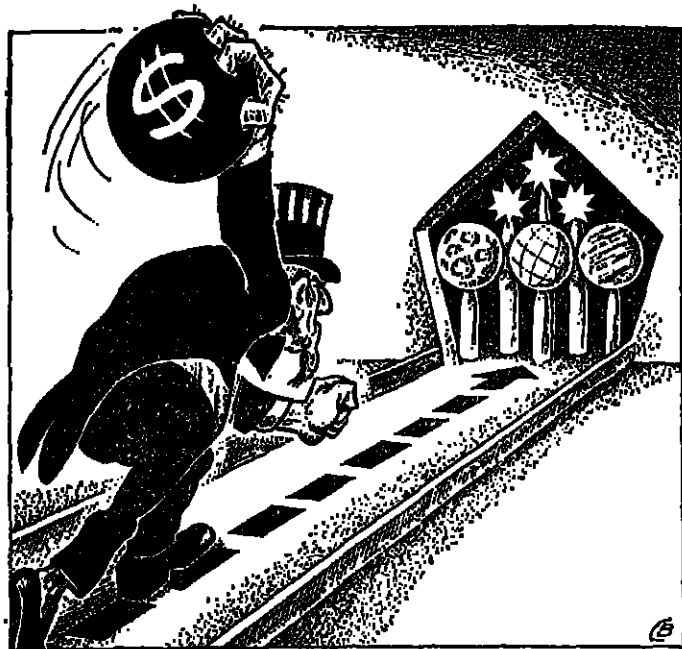
The participants declared their support for the forces of peace in all countries who have decided to widely celebrate the 40th anniversary of Victory with mass activities in defence of peace and against the arms race.

VIETNAM REJECTS WESTERN REPORTS

Hanoi. If the Pol Pot forces are eliminated, we shall proceed the very next day with complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteers, said the Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Co Thach in an interview to the American newspaper "Boston Globe". He has rejected the reports in Western media about alleged replacement of the Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea by other combatants. Over the period since 1982, Vietnam has withdrawn one-third of its volunteers from Kampuchea, he said. In

keeping with the decisions of the Vietnamese summit between the Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean leaders, the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteers who are fulfilling their internationalist duty in Kampuchea will proceed as the internal situation in that country becomes more stabilized.

Nguyen Co Thach pointed out that a most important condition for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea is elimination of the Pol Pot men as a military and political force.



Drawing by Vladimir Sviridov

Decision of new Sudanese leadership

Khartoum. Member of the transitional military council of Sudan General O. A. Mohammed told the "Al Quwat al Musallaha" paper that during the transitional period activities will be allowed of the existing and the creation of new political parties, as well as press organs reflecting their point of view. During this period, he stressed, preparation will be on

for elections to the constituent assembly, which would have to work out a permanent constitution of Sudan.

O. A. Mohammed stated that taking part in the preparation of the national charter will be a transitional military council, the alliance of the national forces of salvation of Sudan, and the Council of Ministers.

New organization in Britain

London. It was announced here of the creation of a new organization — the Institute of employment problems whose kernel is made up of noted public and political figures, including former heads of government Edward Heath, Lord Wilson and James Callaghan.

As stressed in a statement released here by the institute founders, its goal will be to put pressure on the Conservative government to make it take effective measures to fight unemployment. Remarkably, the document's authors plan not simply to spread a mass campaign of res-

istance to the Tory policy in this region but also intend to actively launch their own proposals for reducing the army of the unemployed of over 3,000,000.

The document, which is a veritable programme of the organization, was signed by over 110 MPs and noted political, public, trade union and religious figures.

Now taking shape in the country is a strong anti-Thatcher coalition, whose formation is an unprecedented step in the country's post-war history, is the appearance of the new organization is being commented upon here.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ANTONOV'S CASE

Brussels. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) has set up a commission to investigate the case of the Bulgarian officer Sergei Antonov, according to a statement released by the association. The commission has been set up in line with a resolution of the IADL Congress which took place in October 1984, in Athens.

The Bulgarian citizen Sergei Antonov was apprehended (the Italian authorities as it is stated charges of involvement in an attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II in May 1981) accusations were built up by the testimony of the Turkish fascist Ali Agca who shot the Pope. In July Agca was publicly brainwashed by agents of the Italian special services at the insistence of the CIA.

The IADL commission is headed by prominent lawyers from India, France, West Germany, Belgium, and Ireland. The prominent Irish lawyer, Seán Bríd, winner of the International Lenin Prize, "for the promotion of Peace Among Nations and of the Nobel Peace Prize" has consented to take part in the commission's work.

DEMONSTRATIVE VISIT TO YASUKUNI

Tokyo. In defiance of protests the Japanese Prime Minister has again made a trip to the ill-reputed temple for nationalist and militarist propaganda.

During his premiership Nakasone has already made two demonstrative visits to Yasukuni, a place of pilgrimage for Japanese soldiers who died in the war of plunder against the imperial army. Under the roof of the temple is the "sanctuary of soldiers" of the organization of the Japanese imperial aggression against the peoples of Asia. The Emperor was sentenced to death by international military law for the Part East for their crimes during the war. Many leaders of the Nakasone government are frequent visitors to the temple.

Japan's democratic opposition sees the "visit" by the prime minister and his close associates to Yasukuni as an encouragement by the ruling circles for the reactionary forces seeking to revive militarism and chauvinism.

DEATH OF TANCREDO NEVES

Brasilia. Brazil's President Tancredo Neves has died at the age of 74 after a prolonged illness. He fell suddenly at 11 p.m. on March 14. The day he was in hospital, he had been suffering from a heart attack. The government has announced eight days of national mourning.

The Brazilian Congress has declared an emergency session to elect a new president. Neves was the first president to be elected by popular vote in Brazil since 1964. He was a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters and a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

THE WORLD

Preparing towards a march to Washington, West Chester's coalition of people's action has sponsored a public meeting to denounce the administration's militarist course and its "star wars" programme. The meeting demanded a positive response from Washington to the latest Soviet initiatives. Those present were addressed by the famous American singer and composer Pete Seeger and young Black actor Guy Davis (pictured).



MANKIND WILL NEVER FORGET

New Delhi. A Month of activities dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Victory over German fascism and Japanese militarism has commenced in the capital of India. It was opened with a photographic exhibition "For the Sake of Life on Earth" mounted by the TASS news agency and dealing with the heroic struggle of the Soviet people in the years of the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). Activities of the Month, which is being held on the initiative of the Indian-Soviet Cultural Society and the Friends of the Soviet Union Society, include photographic exhibitions, film festivals, readers' conferences and rallies.

Mankind will never forget the exploits of the Soviet people who made a decisive contribution to the defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism and rid the peoples from enslavement, remarked Purushottam Goyal, President of the Municipal Corporation of New Delhi in his address at the inauguration ceremony of the photographic exhibition. The great victory won forty years ago opened the road to independence for many countries, including India. The Soviet Union is the main guarantor of peace today. It counterposes Washington's insane war doctrines with constructive peace initiatives aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war.

Exhibition in Harbin

Peking. A decision has been taken about the holding in Harbin of an exhibition dedicated to the 40th anniversary since the routing of militarist Japan. It will be about the criminal activities of the designers of bacteriological and chemical weapons from "Detachment 731". The exhibition will feature about four hundred photographs and other items, material evidence, to be more precise, which describe the savage "experiments" to create new mass destruction weapons. During the experiments thousands of people were tortured to death.

On the site where "Detachment 731" was deployed, it is planned to set up a memorial museum to honour the victims of monstrous crimes committed by the Japanese military and to mark the anniversary since its defeat.

FACTS AND EVENTS

© The Japanese authorities have declared that they recognize the "right" of the USA to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The statement to this effect was made in the Lower House of the Japanese Parliament by the head of the National Defence Department Koichi Kato. He said that pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons is a component of the "containment doctrine".

© The newspaper "Boston Globe" reports that Tel Aviv has given an enthusiastic welcome to the American invitation to take part in the "star wars" programme. The newspaper writes that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, favour the prospects of joint research in this sphere with American nuclear scientists.

Plans for a military base at Nouméa

Paris. According to France-Presse, the French Government is studying plans for the creation of a strategic military base in the area of the town of Nouméa — the administrative centre of New Caledonia. The plan was put forward after President Mitterrand's trip to New Caledonia in connection with the worsening of the political problems of the archipelago. The native people of which are demanding recognition of their right to self-determination.

According to the French press agency, France first of all wants to expand its military presence in New Caledonia. To this end the armed forces command has already sent a nuclear submarine to the area of the archipelago. The plans for the creation of a military base near Nouméa specifically entail the construction of port facilities designed for an atomic submarine and two anti-submarine ships. Also planned is the simultaneous modernization of the airport which will quarter a unit of the French Air Force.

Japanese headquarters for promotion of foreign trade

Tokyo. The government of Nakasone has declared the establishment of a so-called headquarters for promotion of foreign trade, including all the members of the government and representatives of the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Its goal will be settlement

of the Japanese-American economic contradictions, which have reached a critical point. Last year the deficit of the US trade balance with its Far Eastern rival achieved a record-high post-war sum of some 37,000 million dollars. Economists predict that this year the figure will exceed 40,000 million dollars.

Faked timepieces flood the market

Unmolested by competition in the past, the Swiss watch-making firms are having hard times today. Every year Japan and other Pacific countries saturate the market with millions of cheap electronic and mechanical timepieces. Besides, using the high prestige of the famous Swiss firms have started to produce exact replicas of most popular models with which they have inundated shops throughout the world. As a result, Swiss watches are suffering tremendous losses. Fakes made in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan are hard to distinguish from the original, but they cost only a fraction of the real thing. The scene you see in the picture is nothing unique. Counter people are destroying another 5,000 of fakes.

Photo Reuters-TASS

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

THE STRATEGY OF HEGEMONISM

The major leaders in the Reagan administration, and the president himself in particular, assure that they see as the main task in their policies as regards the developing countries the struggle against the Soviet Union's influence, writes V. Kremyuk in IZVESTIA. For the first time this way of putting the question was expressed at a press conference given by the former State Secretary Alexander Haig in January 1981. Since then, the administration has missed not a single occasion in order either to repeat or to confirm this thesis with its practical activities.

If we are to speak about the military aspect of these activities we shall take note of the creation of the Central, or Central Command for the Indian Ocean zone, deployment of the American armed forces in the area of the Middle East, the invasion of Grenada, active support to the anti-popular regime in El Salvador, threats against Nicaragua, and military deliveries to Israel, Pakistan, Sudan and to a whole number of other dependent countries and regimes.

DANGEROUS GAMES

Even before the dust from the caterpillars of the US tanks involved in the American-Honduran Big Pine-3 manoeuvres settled new marine and paratrooper units were dispatched from US bases, writes Vadim Litov in PRAYDA. The former will seize a bridgehead from the sea in the area of Puerto Castilla, the latter—the zone of Las Salbas from the sea. Thus 7,000 participants in new manoeuvres code-named Universal Track-85 will continue the fanning of military psychosis in Central America.

The successive joint American-Honduran war games are a link in the chain of preparations for aggression against Nicaragua. The Pentagon has so deeply involved Honduras in its aggressive plans that the territory of this country has in fact become a big American proving ground. There is another disturbing factor: the scale of the dangerous games continues to grow, new aspects are constantly introduced. Thus the exercises are hardly "defensive", as the Washington propaganda claims, but offensive in nature and involve planned operations, writes the author.

'NUCLEAR ALLERGY' OF U.S. ALLIES

Commenting on the statement by Icelandic Foreign Minister to the effect that NATO's ships carrying nuclear weapons (Iceland is, incidentally, a NATO member) will be barred from Icelandic territorial waters, TASS observer S. Kuznetsov notes that the Reagan administration's unprecedented programme of boosting nuclear arms and the talk on the possibility of "limited" nuclear wars have made some American allies think it best to disassociate themselves from the Pentagon's dangerous plans. Late last year the Danish parliament passed a resolution obligating the government to prohibit deployment in the country of nuclear weapons both in peace and wartime. Greek Prime Minister Papandreu has repeatedly stressed his determination to press for a removal of nuclear ammunition stored in American military bases.

The Reagan administration apparently believes, the article continues, that the best means to deliver US allies from this "nuclear allergy" is a "shock therapy" in the form of various sanctions. For instance, Washington threatens New Zealand with economic punishment and Greece with a reduction in military aid. Yet neither the crude pressure nor the undisguised blackmail can make peoples agree to the role of hostages of the adventurous plans of the Pentagon.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS PROGRAMME?

Commenting on the performance of the French singer Yves Montand in the teleprogramme FR-3 where he agreed to act as presenter in the "Facing the War" programme designed to boost the arms race and justify the American plans for the militarization of space, S. Kulik writes in SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA:

Of course, one might just not pay attention to the performance of the old singer, explaining it by his desire to again appear on the TV screen or get some good remuneration. Yet one is surprised and worried by the fact that this programme, clearly timed to coincide, in provocative style, with the 40th anniversary of the destruction of fascism, was shown on French state TV and that defence minister Charles Hernu, who spoke after that film took on the same channel answering questions, would not restore the historical truth and honour those who saved mankind from the brown plague.

Who benefits from that programme? By no means the cause of peace, which, with every day, is more threatened by the stockpiling of superarms, primarily nuclear ones. And not the security of the peoples of Europe, who would be the first but not the only victims of mass annihilation.

OF INTEREST

Gloves give clues

Criminals engaged in illegal acts in gloves now cannot hope to avoid punishment, said Flecken, judicial identification department head of Louvain-la-Neuve hospital. A card-index of gloveprints has been under compilation in Switzerland since 1931 and, lately, courts regard these prints as evidence of guilt. Judicial practice shows that lucky thieves do not so often change their gloves when starting a new operation and, therefore, easily become victims of the latest achievements in legal science.

'Santa Maria' anchors

"Santa Maria", the caravel on which Christopher Columbus sailed on his discovery voyage, will be built in its original shape and launched in the Ligurian Harbour in Italy, where the famous discoverer was born. This idea was conceived by the committee on the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the man who discovered America. The celebration will start in 1990 and will continue for three years. A 24-volume collection of documents and information about the great geographical discoveries will be published.

VIEWPOINT

Brain drain

The practice of luring skilled specialists from developing nations to the West has been flourishing since the Second World War, and the "third world" has thus lost nearly 600,000 doctors, engineers, and teachers, and many billions of dollars in damages.

At present, according to UNCTAD, the scale of the "brain drain" from developing countries has reached an average of 50,000 people a year. The US military-industrial complex is becoming the main customer of the "stolen brains". There is real hunt now for engineers and scientists who are in one way or the other connected with the development of new weapons systems, primarily in Asia, Africa and Latin America. But the hunt is not confined to these places alone. The Canadian "Globe and Mail", for instance, reported on April 1 that some scientists in Toronto University are attracted funds by the US Air Force for research into and development of laser devices for "star wars". There are other testimonies to such

orders placed by the US Army and weapons monopolies with research institutions in other developed capitalist countries. Yet replenishment of US institutions with such personnel proceeds mainly at the expense of the "third world".

This is a principally new way of shifting the burden of one's own military spending onto another, or — using President Reagan's terminology cited last year by the "Business America" magazine — of steadily and effectively involving foreign resources in satisfying the needs of the US armed forces.

Until recently this "involvement" was mainly in connection with the creation of American military bases and other military facilities in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the transfer of production of the most labour-consuming items for military purposes to American subsidiaries in these places. Already operating are 120 such subsidiaries producing electronic equipment for warships, planes, tanks and air-defence systems. In 1983

alone these companies gave the Pentagon products worth ten billion dollars and considerably improved its budget at the expense of comparatively cheap labour in the developing countries.

Rapidly increasing is that part of the Pentagon budget meant for research and development of more advanced weapons, including space ones. In 1984 alone expenditure on these stood at 30 billion dollars as compared with 0.5-0.6 billion annually spent on them during the first post-war years. This is not surprising, for the US military complex employs one out of every five engineers and one out of every four engineering physicists plus a large number of other specialists.

This year the USA plans to spend 34 billion dollars on military research. New highly-skilled specialists will be needed. But where does one find them at home, if for a long time the

USA has been constantly reducing the training of personnel in its own higher schools, preferring cheaper "import of intellect"?

This means that the scale of this import will further increase, even though it is already massive. For instance, when two years ago authorities in the Philippines decided to stop the open recruitment of specialists trained in local higher schools for the USA and other Western countries, it came to light that this business was being handled in the country by 180 various offices and agencies.

In fact the training of one specialist with a higher education costs a developing country 25-45 thousand dollars. It is easy to calculate how much it costs these countries if their economies lose annually 50 thousand such specialists in addition to direct losses from the lack of experienced national personnel. Arab countries, for example, consider that as a result of the "brain drain" they lose a total of 11 billion dollars a year.

But there are other things besides the material damage. Owing to such a policy of the weapons manufacturers the "third world", contrary to its wishes and interests, has to bear part of the burden of military preparations of the West and indirectly subsidize its programmes for boosting arms.

Round the Soviet Union

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE HANDLING OF CONTAINER CARGO IN THE FREIGHT SEAPORT OF IZMAIL ON THE BLACK SEA (THE UKRAINE) WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AN AUTOMATED CONTROL SYSTEM "KONTAINER". It smoothes the whole process, involving railways, automobile roads, marine and river routes.

THE WORLD AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD APPEARS AT THE EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S PICTURES WHICH OPENED ON 15 APRIL IN THE ALL-RUSSIA MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE, APPLIED AND FOLK ARTS. The exhibition is made up of works from the "Banner of Peace" fund which was set up in Bulgaria by Ljudmila Zhivkova (1942-1981) to include 25 thousand works of art, literature, and music made by teenagers from 116 countries of the world. The young artists whose works were included in the present exhibition depict everyday life, customs and traditions of the peoples in their countries.

Putting earthquake to use

An unusual earthquake has been registered by seismologists in Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan. Although its epicentre was beneath the foundation of a recently-erected tall building, there was no disaster.

The quake was specially caused by scientists in order to determine the seismic resistance of another residential block. It was initiated by a generator of seismic tremors designed in Kazakhstan. Before the test, the machine was installed by the foundation of the building.

This has made it possible to employ an economic method of recreating the pattern of a real earthquake. The generator is directional and precise in its operation. The tremors appear over an area of tens of square metres.

Local artificial earthquakes are useful to builders and architects. From now on, all newly designed houses will be tested this way to determine their durability.

ELBE: FOUR DECADES AGO

Almost forty years ago this picture of two embracing soldiers was reproduced by many newspapers in the world. Late at night, on April 25, 1945, a UPI correspondent reported from the HQ of US 60th Infantry Division that he had seen an American officer and a Soviet soldier climb towards each other along the debris of a blasted bridge to shake hands over the middle of the river, thus signifying by their friendly embrace the historic unification of the allied troops. That was how Alexander Silvaschko of the USSR and American



A recent picture of Alexander Silvaschko.



The meeting on the Elbe in April 1945: Alexander Silvaschko (right) and William Robertson (reproduced from a 1945 newspaper).

William Robertson happened to meet.

At present Alexander Silvaschko lives in Byelorussia. He is the director of a rural school, a most peaceful profession on earth.

William Robertson, US Army

junior lieutenant in 1945, is now a celebrated neurosurgeon. Ever since the war he has been consistently advocating more trust between our countries, understanding and friendship between our peoples.

NORTHERN RIVERS TO HELP THE CASPIAN

A plan has been drafted to divert quantities of water to rivers in the northern part of the country to the Caspian. This river feeds the Caspian. The flow of water from the sea has reduced by 14-16 per cent. The basin of these rivers is inhabited by a population of the USSR and a third of the nation's output. The consumption of water constantly grows. Reduction in the flow of water into the Caspian may lead to a situation where its shallow zone will completely dry up and seriously damage the country's economy. The plan channel water from the rivers to the southern part of the Caspian. Under the plan, the Semyr Dvina River will give the Caspian 10 billion of its 100 billion cu m of annual flow and the Onega—11 per cent.

The fish stocks in these rivers will somewhat lessen, but will be compensated by new fisheries and fishing farms being set up on the northern lakes. It will be noticeable influence on the climate—such reduction of the volume of water will reduce the thermal regime of the Caspian Sea, not to mention the Atlantic Ocean. Even the most accurate instruments will fail to register these changes.

of mining, metallurgical, engineering and chemical enterprises in the Tashkent oases and southern Kazakhstan, and stop up electrification of the Central Asian railroad. The station will have eight units with a total capacity of 2.4 million kW.

Novoangrensky's first current

The first 300,000 kW unit of the Novoangrensky heat-and-power station in Uzbekistan (Central Asia) is put into operation. It is part of a large power

complex being built in the valley of the Angren River on the basis of a coal field employing the open-cast method. It will help speed up the development

New nuclear lighter

Soviet Northern fleet will soon use a unique ship now being built by the Zalyv shipyards in the Black Sea town of Kerch. Specialists believe that, with the commissioning of the new ship on the Arctic routes, organization of the transportation process in the grim higher altitudes should largely change.

This will be the world's first transport lighter with a nuclear power plant designed for use in the Extreme North. The new ship can work in ice conditions not only together with icebreakers, but (more important) independent-

ly, as well. With the help of its power plant the ship will be able to crush ice up to a metre in depth. Also, because of its large size, it will be able to conduct other ships. Together with the icebreakers operating in the Arctic, the ship will be able to lead transport caravans of ships along the Northern Sea Route, the transport sea route along the Arctic coast of the USSR.

The lighter will carry 65,000 tonnes of cargo in containers on spacious floating barges—lighters—which will considerably reduce transportation costs.

RETOOLING MINSK MOTORWORKS

The high quality design of vehicles in a new family of MAZ-6422 lorries, which do not fall behind the best makes of the world, is ensured by the newest manufacturing technology. Recently, a flexible automated complex began to operate at the motorworks in the Byelorussian capital, thus doubling labour productivity at the MAZ factory. All the welding work, feeding of workpieces and handling of finished goods are automatically done by means of manipulators.

The restructuring of the complex for welding cabs of different sizes and shapes takes several minutes. When its production capacity is reached at the end of the year, the factory will completely meet the growing needs of the enterprise's welded structures.

The setting up of the programme for technical retooling, the implementation of which will increase the output of products by more than 20 million rubles in the five-year plan period (1985). Even today the factory is widely using such modern laser thermal strengthening of the parts and plasma welding systems will also be accepted.

BUSINESS CIRCLES IN EAST AND WEST SEEK COOPERATION

In Moscow, a meeting took place of the Executive Council of the International Council for New Initiatives on East-West Cooperation, an international non-governmental organization set up in 1979 on the initiative of representatives from industry, science and public from socialist and capitalist countries. The main task of the organization is to promote international economic, scientific and technical links. The meeting discussed the activities of the International Council and plans for 1985 and 1986. It was noted that the holding of the meeting on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Victory and ten years since the signing of the Final Act at Helsinki demonstrated the desire for international cooperation among the business, scientific, technological and public circles both in the East and in the West.

'Lenin and Afghanistan'

"Soviet Russia will always remain a friend to the Afghan state" are Lenin's words chosen as the motto for an exhibition now going on at the Moscow House of Friendship with Foreign Countries. It marks the 15th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and this year's anniversary of the Afghan April Revolution.

The pictures on display represent the works of Soviet artist Alexander Kotelnikov. Two of them: "Special Caravan" and "The Road to Herat" have much in common. The first reflects the historically authentic fact of an expedition sent on Lenin's instructions to Afghanistan to organize the first flying school there.

The second picture shows long caravans of lorries delivering Soviet cargo to Afghanistan.

There is an interesting portrait of Musa John Halka Baba (the father of the people) who was lucky to meet and speak with Lenin. At 109, he is a member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"Afghan Youth Guarding the April Revolution" is a triptych representing a symbolic image of the country the people of which are perseveringly fighting for

their right to live a free life.

The pictures show remarkable specimens of ancient architecture and new houses. Others are portraits of Afghans, including a series of portraits of Afghan students studying at Soviet colleges and universities.

The inauguration of the exhibition was attended by the Afghan Ambassador to the USSR, Habib Mangal.

Roman CHISTYAKOV

Lessons at potter's wheel

Sitting at a potter's wheel Mamuka Zhorzheladze, a Tbilisi schoolboy, began doing his test work by moulding a delicate tea cup from clay.

Mamuka attends classes at School No. 161 where the kiln and the mixers are made by the schoolchildren themselves. Here lessons in pottery cover two years. Senior schoolchildren are taught the secrets of pottery, an ancient craft in Georgia, by professional artists.

Science and technology

SPACE ROUNDUP

On April 16 the Soviet Union launched a new satellite, Kosmos 1645, into a circumterrestrial orbit. The satellite has the equipment for materials studies in outer space. In recent years such experiments have been carried out on board the Salyut-6 and Salyut-7 orbiting stations. With the help of electric furnaces of the "Salyut", "Kosmos" and some other types many crystals, semiconductors and alloys were obtained in the conditions of weightlessness. Materials acquire a better structure and very promising properties.

On the Salyut stations, the electric furnaces were operated by cosmonauts. At present, such experiments are made automatically for the first time.

Approaching Venus are two Soviet unmanned probes, Vega-1 and Vega-2. They were launched in December last year, and are now a distance of more than thirty million kilometres from the Earth.

Soon after the Vega stations approach the vicinity of the planet the descent modules will, on 11 and 15 June, enter the Venusian atmosphere and together with the detachable aerostatic balloons begin measuring the planet's characteristics. The aerostatic balloons will freely move in the Venusian clouds under the action of wind.

Preparing to take part in these experiments are ground stations in the Soviet Union, Australia, the United States and other countries.

Soviet and foreign scientific centres are making ready for joint work under the Venus-Halley's Comet project.

VIEWPOINT

WAR VETERANS—NONE FORGOTTEN

Alexander MALOV, Executive Secretary, Soviet War Veterans Committee

Alexander Malov is a veteran of the Great Patriotic War. To him the war began on Byelorussian soil and ended in Königsberg.

Even in the first few post-war years, the war veterans were given many benefits. Ever since, war invalids have been drawing their pensions regardless of age, employment, or incomes. In addition, the pensionable age has been brought down for all war invalids by five years: 65 years for men and fifty for women.

Like all other Soviet citizens, war veterans enjoy free medical care. War invalids get their medicines free of charge, while other veterans get them at a fifty per cent discount. Those of them who need treatment in sanatoriums and resorts are given preference accommodation. For war invalids this is also free of charge, plus a two-way ticket. Another example, in cases when this is recommended by the doctors as absolutely essential, they are given special mini-cars. At present, 400 thousand invalids own such cars. Like those invalids who buy their cars with their own money, these mini-car owners receive from the state subsidies for petrol and technical servicing.

If an elderly person has no family, he can move to a state-run boarding house for war veterans, where he or she is provided with all necessities.

Another important thing is that although this country has established the lowest housing rent and charges for municipal services, war invalids and the families of those who fell in the war are given a fifty per cent discount on rent and related services. As a result, the rent of a three-room flat for a war veteran is four rubles (or less than 4.5 US dollar per month). They pay 21 kopeks per person (27 US cents) a month for gas.

It should be stressed that the attention accorded to war veterans in the Soviet Union is not a sporadic campaign. It is rather a consistent improvement (as the state gets better economic possibilities) of all types of social security.

In view of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) the Soviet Union has adopted a number of new decrees which establish additional benefits and discounts for war veterans and the families of the servicemen who died in the war.

Thus, all war veterans now enjoy a twenty per cent increment in pensions and fifty per cent discount on the medicines they buy. To those who became disabled after the war the medicines are given free of charge, they pay only half the housing rent and charges for municipal services, as was earlier established for war invalids. Their pensions will be considerably increased, too.

There will be further improvements in the living conditions of war veterans and in the medical services they enjoy. Neither are the families of those who fell in the war forgotten.

The wives of deceased war invalids retain the discounts on rent payments. New special benefits are granted to the people who distinguished themselves in defence of the Motherland—Heroes of the Soviet Union and winners of the soldier's Order of Glory of all the three classes.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

FOOD PROGRAMME: FIRST RESULTS

As a result of carrying out a number of measures aimed at the development of agricultural production and social services in rural areas in 1966-1985 capital investment in the agricultural branch of our economy was 740,000 million rubles, labour productivity in agriculture increased constantly during five-year plans: in the ninth five-year plan it went up by 22 per cent as compared to the 1966-1970 plan, in the tenth five-year plan (1976-1980) it amounted to 38 per cent, and in 1980 it increased against 1965 approximately by 1.7 times. These achievements have played a decisive role in the growth of agricultural products and the cattle population.

The Food Programme adopted in 1982 envisages additional measures for the purpose of ensuring quicker development in agriculture as well as in agricultural industries for the fuller supply of the population with all kinds of foodstuffs.

Two years since the adoption of the Food Programme, writes the KOMMUNIST magazine, have brought encouraging results. In total, agricultural production in 1983-1984 exceeded the previous two years of the five-year plan by 22,000 million rubles. Noticeable improvements are seen especially in the cattle population that enabled to increase the sale of the most valuable foodstuffs for the people of our country.

CARDIOLOGISTS AT THE LIKHACHOV AUTOMOBILE WORKS

The All-Union Cardiological Research Centre (AUCRC) of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences has

examined workers and employees of 20 leading shops at the Moscow automobile works named after Likhachov—six thousand people altogether.

The examination done at the auto works is only part of a big programme. Now this programme is being implemented at the big industrial enterprises in 23 cities of the country, writes in the NAIKA I ZHIZN magazine director of the Institute of Preventive Cardiology (one of the institutes of the AUCRC), Professor Rafael Ogarev.

By carrying out this examination physicians collect piecemeal information about direct and indirect symptoms which precede a cardiac disease, examine not only how a worker feels, but also his environment in the labour collective; in one word, specialists are trying to find out everything that worries a person.

Some sceptics think it is hardly reasonable to spend so much time and effort to examine healthy and regularly busy people only to say in most cases that you are all right.

The most convincing are the data. Approximately a quarter of the examined workers at the Likhachov plant revealed hypertension which one out of three had not even suspected.

Urgent medical measures were taken: all the cases got an appropriate treatment: hypotensive medicines and recommendations concerning the diet, working conditions and rest.

Sometimes physicians-cardiologists just on site tell how to choose the mode of labour and rest, reminding workers about the first symptoms of cardiovascular diseases, and told them about new methods of treatment. The first five-year stage of medical activities at the

Likhachov automobile works is over. Now examinations should not be any more selective but total.

For the time being scientists at the Institute of Preventive Cardiology are summarizing results of the examination. This experience is supposed to be spread to all big industrial enterprises in our country.

WAR ECHOES AGAIN

The Soviet people have been living under peaceful skies for forty years. Still press reports carry and events as the one recently published in IZVESTIA.

An excavator operator Vasily Pirogov was digging a trench along the quiet Ruba Street in Novosibirsk. The bucket failed to hook something that looked like a pipe fragment. When Vasily Pirogov and his comrades approached the pit they noticed something that made them tremble with horror. At that moment the two men were not thinking about themselves but about the people in the surrounding houses, pedestrians, children. A trench, its completely rusted tailfin lay nearby.

The operator had dug out several dozens. A demolition like this during 25 years of his work in Novosibirsk. He drove his machine away a secure distance and formed the military about his findings. A demolition squad rushed from Rostov-on-Don. They put the bomb on a sand cushion in a truck and brought it to a safe place, escorted by militia cars.

It was a German half-tonne high-explosive bomb with an electric impact detonating fuse of the Second World War period. Similar bombs placed through a railway building, penetrated 6-8 metres underground and exploded. Nobody knows why that one did not blow up.

'Woman in a Modern World'

In August 1985, the Kenyan capital Nairobi will play host to a UN-sponsored World Conference which will sum up the UN Decade for Women.

To mark the event the APN Publishing House is preparing a book by young Soviet sociolog-

ists Marianna Korchagina and Yelena Sorokina. The small and well-illustrated book is designed as an easy and entertaining guide to the history of the social and economic status of women in capitalist and developing countries in the not so distant past, and also deals with the way their problems are being solved in socialist countries.

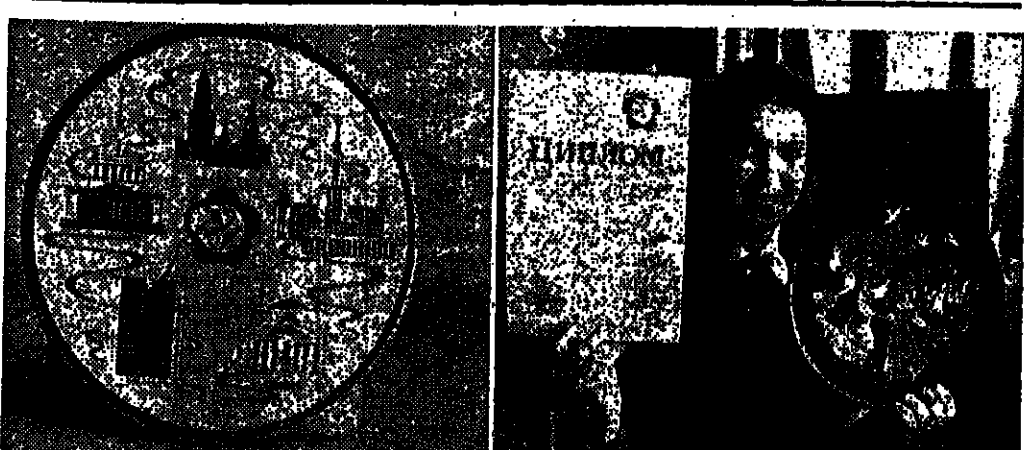
It provides a vast panorama of the selfish struggle waged by women the world over for equality, social progress, cessation of the imperialist-triggered arms race and for the elimination of the danger of nuclear war.

The pictures illustrate and further enhance the text which will be translated into English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Arabic, Dari and Arabic.

Quest for snakes

A team of snake hunters from a zoological combine in Prunze (capital of Kirghizia) has left for Siberia. In the local marshlands they are expected to catch four to five thousand adders for the combine's serpentarium. In their offspring will number between six and seven thousand small snakes. These will be sent back to Siberia, while their parents will join the productive group of the serpentarium.

It is a well-lit room with four rows of cages. The terrariums are air-conditioned. A herpetologist picks up an immature reptile, slightly presses a vessel, and a tiny jet of venom appears on its wall. Each specimen goes through this procedure six to eight times a month. The combine produces up to 100 grammes of dry venom a year for medical needs.



The Moscow Khudozhnitskaya Gravyrnaya association are making a number of souvenirs for the 12th Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow this summer. They include panels (which carry artistic engravings: on metal, textile, good and bad manners), a Festival plaquette by Lyudmila Orekhova (left), artist Lyubov Gerasimova, who her Festival souvenirs which has won a diploma of the Soviet Festival Preparatory Committee authorizing the production of items bearing the Festival's symbols.

ENTERTAINMENT

MAXIMOVA AND VASILYEV IN THE FILM, 'LA TRAVIATA'

The Soviet cinemas are to run the opera film "La Traviata" produced by the famous Italian film director Franco Zeffirelli. Two parts in the film are played by Valerina Maximova and Vladimir Vasilyev. In Zeffirelli's film we take part in only one episode, says Vladimir Vasilyev. It is the scene of the ball at Flora's to which the most famous dancers from La Grand Opera were invited. We are playing and dancing those dances. The invitation from the Italian film director was quite unexpected. We could not imagine what it would be. A possibility of work with a famous master is interesting to any actor, so we accepted the invitation. Zeffirelli not merely put the opera onto the screen. He produced a synthetic film in which the music, the vocal parts, and the dancing have become a single whole.



Ancient art lives on

At one time, kiumplai, massive shoes made of wood, were the main type of footwear in Lithuania. Today, the kiumplai are not worn. They are needed by all the folklore companies in the republic — it is impossible to do without them in many folk dances. For instance, at the Festival of Song to be held in July

this year in Vilnius, at least four hundred pairs will be needed. There are few masters who possess secrets of manufacturing this type of shoes.

First among them is 82-year-old Stanislovas Sultankis, a cobbler living in Telšiai. He has been making the kiumplai since the age of 12. The master calculates that in his long life he has made more than forty thousand pairs.

- Stanislovas Sultankis at his workshop.
- The Klaipeda Folklore Ensemble Vetrungis performs a dance with kiumplai.

ARTS FESTIVAL

A tour of the Moscow Art Theatre has begun in Poland as part of the Days of Soviet Culture in that country.

For our Polish tour, we have selected two plays which we think reflect the main directions in the creative activities of the company, said the theatre's chief artistic director Oleg V. Remov. They are "The Sea Gull" which presents the theatre's dying interest in the Russian classics, such as Chekhov, and other production "The Way We Shall Win" by M. Shcheglov which has been included in the programme of the tour as one of our main themes — that of Lenin — in the repertoire of the theatre.

At this festival of arts and friendship the audience will see and hear many Soviet operas. The Bolshoi Ballet's dance "The Golden Age" by Shostakovich, "Ivan the Terrible" by Prokofiev and other productions.

Another outstanding performer in Poland is the Ukrainian folk dance "The Days of Soviet Culture". The Days include a festival of Polish and Soviet music, a Week of Soviet Film, and a number of fine arts exhibitions.

TRADITIONS AND MODERNITY

An exhibition opened at Moscow's Museum of Oriental Art familiarizes the visitors with the works of modern Turkish artists. The exhibition is made up of works by 39 authors famous both in their native land and abroad. They are all winners of prizes at national Turkish and West European contests.

The distinct national air is a remarkable feature of the exhibits. The canvases seem to be radiated with the rays of the southern sun, and they record the wealth and beauty of the nature in Turkey. The graphic sheets register the outlines of working class districts of Ankara and quiet streets in provincial towns. A remarkable place has been assigned at the exhibition to portraits — a favourite genre among Turkish artists.



Ulku Varlik. "Nocturne".

PROFILES

ALEXEI RYBNIKOV



under the influence of vanguard music. Suddenly I felt, however, that this trend had exhausted itself, starting to reflect itself rather than its time. Its language had become so complex that only specialists could understand it. In an attempt to find my own identity, I was gaining mastery of the modern layer of music for light entertainment which, unquestionably, is disdained by most serious musicians. This was a conscious departure from excessive complexity towards the original foundations of music, its melody.

"The Star" is diverse. The tender patterns of lyrical arcs sound next to harshly ironic couplets. Through all this music one traces the main theme — the theme of Teresa the Star which sounds like a powerful requiem for the tragic fate of partition in the final scene of the opera staged by Mark Zakharov. Later the opera was made into a film of the same title produced by Vladimir Grammatikov.

Rock-opera "Juno and Avos" based on a poem by Andrei Voznesensky, put into one melting pot the many years of Rybnikov's creative quest in a rather integrated harmony. At first the opera was recorded on tape at recording studios. In two years, using Rybnikov's music, Zakharov staged the opera, and the record was released afterwards.

"Juno" and "Avos" were the names which the Russian traveller and statesman Count Nikolai Rezanov gave his ships on which he sailed for California in 1806 to establish trade links. Having fallen in love with beautiful Conchita, the daughter of the governor of San Francisco, he comes back to Russia to seek permission to get married. On the way he fell ill and died. Unaware of this, Conchita waited for Rezanov for thirty-five years after which she became Anna. Rybnikov took up Voznesensky's poetic subject and turned it into a musical play, which, as the famous composer Rodion Shchedrin says, produces a hypnotic feeling of remarkable spirituality.

The choir which introduces the epic element into the opera space, the multiplicity of rhythms, and the unbridled fantasy in the use of the possibilities afforded by a synthesizer — all these are techniques which help convey the emotional wealth of the drama felt by the characters.

The show, "Juno and Avos" was successfully staged at Paris. Several theatres in the French capital have relied on Rybnikov's music to stage "Juno and Avos", and a film might quite possibly be made. I think the audience of Rybnikov's talent have no ground to believe that the composer could stop giving them new surprises.

Yuri SHEPOTINNIK
Photo by Valery Plotnikov

WHAT'S ON?

April 23-26

THEATRES

Dolzhok Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). 24 — Strauss, "The Knight of the Sad Countenance" (ballet); Schnitzke, "Sketches" (ballet); 25 — Adam, "Giselle" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St). 23 — A concert by opera soloist Zakharenko. The programme includes Spanish songs, 24 — Prokofiev, "Love of Three Oranges" (opera). 25 — Rimsky-Korsakov, "May Night" (opera). 26 — Khrennikov, "Dorotha" (opera).

Operetta Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St). 23 — Suppé, "Die schweigsame Gattin". 25 — Kremer, "Catherine". 26 — Fellman, "Let the Guitar Play".

FILMS

My Friend Ivan Lapshin (Leningrad Studios).

The film is dedicated to those who lived in the distant thirties. The principal character is the chief of a clear-up group in the criminal department of a small town. Based on a novel by Yuri Gagarin.

EXHIBITIONS

Museum of Arts of Great Peoples (12 Sukrovskaya St). An exhibition "Paintings and Drawings of Turkey". On display are works by 34 famous Turkish artists. The exhibition is open daily, except Mondays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Metro: Arbat, 33.

CONCERT HALLS

Big Concert Hall. 23-26. RSFSR. Concert Organisations: the Olympic Village, Palace of Culture.

BUSINESS

BOOK FAIR IN MOSCOW

The 5th International Book Fair will be held in Moscow from September 10 to 16.

The contracts signed at this major forum (which is second only to the fair in Frankfurt on the Main), are usually fulfilled within two years. At the 1983 fair Soviet publishers signed more than 7,000 agreements with 77 foreign companies, which either were fulfilled fully or are close to completion.

How are the implementation of these agreements and preparations for the 1985 fair going on? The Soviet Union annually publishes about 2,000 books by foreign authors with a total circulation of 180 million copies. The Drubba shop in Moscow sells 12,000 titles of books published by socialist countries. About 4,000 titles are offered to customers at the Moscow Book

House, where publications from capitalist and developing countries are being sold. There are more than 200 such shops in this country.

A total of 2,300 foreign firms and organizations have already sent in requests for participation in the 5th Moscow Fair. There is every reason to believe that the previous number of participants (2,643) will be exceeded.

Foreign companies will be offered books by Soviet authors on the 40th anniversary of Victory, various picture books and art publications about such luminaries of Soviet culture as Stanislavsky, Ulanova, Obraztsova, Tolstomogov, Eisenstein, as well as dictionaries, textbooks, phrase-books the importance of which is increasing especially in connection with the forthcoming World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held this summer in Moscow.

'We want to become partner number one'

More than 150 firms and organizations participated in the French Agroprom-85 agricultural exhibition in Moscow.

This is our second exhibition in the USSR, said René Souchon, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry. We first came to Moscow two and a half years ago and our success proved that there is a lot of potential in agriculture for Franco-Soviet cooperation.

The present exhibition differs from the previous one in that it is more concrete. Souchon went on to say, its participants concentrated their attention on four basic themes: processing of food products, livestock-breeding, agrochemistry and land reclamation.

About 100 firms participating in the exhibition have already made good contacts with Soviet organizations. Others are here for the first time.

The programme also included colloquia and symposia on the exhibition grounds, as well as in various ministries and research institutions in Moscow, at which French experts exchanged scientific information and practical know-how with their Soviet colleagues.

France is the largest producer

and exporter of many farm products in Western Europe, said Souchon. And we would like to become the USSR's partner number one in agriculture and related industries.

In front of the entrance to the pavilion there is a tanker designed to hold liquid compound fertilizer, said Jean-Maire Drouin, chief engineer of the foreign relations department of the BSZ company. The stainless steel tanker is supplied by our company, the tractor and the chassis of the semitrailer — by the Soviet Union. This is a good example of Franco-Soviet cooperation. Such cooperation reduces the USSR's import expenditures. We believe it is promising.

One of the firms taking part in the exhibition was the Spichim company of the Spil-Bagniolles association. In 25 years of cooperation with the USSR our company has supplied the Soviet Union with 31 chemical industrial installations, said Patrick Binot, Spichim's commercial director for cooperation with European countries particularly in the production of pesticides and compound fertilizers. We now propose to build complete full-cycle agricultural complexes.

Cooperation with Valmet

Nearly six hundred ships have been built in cooperation with the USSR at the shipyard of the Finnish firm of Valmet. This was reported at a symposium which the firm held in Moscow.

In 1983 the firm repaired nearly three hundred ships, forty per cent of them Soviet, speakers at the symposium noted. Valmet has been cooperating with this country fruitfully for a long time.

At the Turku shipyard, a floating dock with the lifting capacity of 8,500 tonnes was delivered in 1985. The dock was made in the Soviet city of Kheron. In 1980-1984, geophysical, scientific exploration and supply ships were built for the USSR Ministry of Gas Industry. For the Sea of Okhotsk and the Barents Sea, Valmet has designed a project of the world's first pipe-layer with equipment for resistance welding. The welding equipment was manufactured at the Union Electrical Welding Institute in Kiev. In order to prolong the navigation along the Siberian rivers, the firm has built a number of river motorvessels of the "Sibirsky-2101" class. These were the first river ships capable of negotiating ice thirty centimetres thick.

At present, Valmet, jointly with the USSR is going to design a vessel of the "Volga-Lyod" class with icebreaking capability and is taking part in the research work to develop technologies for exploration of the Arctic shelf.

Contacts and contracts

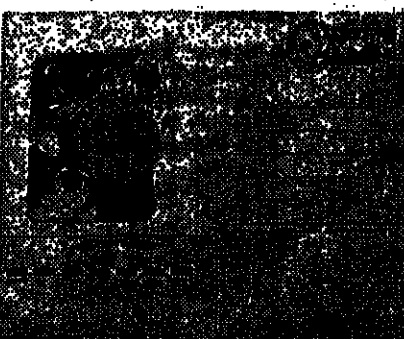
● A session of the management council of the International Agrarian society has concluded in Kishinev (capital of Moldavia) with the signing of a protocol. The representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia summed up the results of joint work and discussed the prospects for scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the development of new agricultural machines up to 1990.

● Under the terms of an agreement signed by the V/O Prommashimport and Polish enterprise Polimex-Cekop, the latter is to deliver to the USSR this year more than 60 technological lines for manufacturing furniture parts.

Philately

IN HONOUR OF SPACE JUBILEES

The USSR Ministry of Communications has issued a new postage stamp for the Cosmonautics Day. This year it is also devoted to the 25th anniversary of the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre, shown by the inscription on the stamp. Price: 15 kopeks.



A postcard with an imprinted stamp has been released to mark man's first space walk in March 1965. The man who went into the open space, during an orbital flight on board the space ship Vostok-2, was USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov. Leonov drew the picture of the postcard.

Specialized Firms

Incorporated in V/O NOVOEXPORT:

NOVOFORM Firm — exports secondary processable materials and production waste from paper, textiles, synthetic and chemical fibre, tars and non-ferrous metallurgical, petrochemical and oilrefining, plastic and polymer resin processes, rubber-containing and other kinds of reprocessable materials and industrial waste.

NOVOBALT Firm — exports peat and peat products, wooden articles for industrial and household uses, gardening tools and implements goods for angling and camping, pleasure and sports rowboats, catamaran boats, model-making and do-it-yourself kits.

KOVRY Firm — exports and imports of carpets and like articles.

SADKO Firm — exports and imports of handicraft articles, artistic porcelain ware, bijouterie and antiques.

V/O NOVOEXPORT

2, ul. Tsekhova
103008 Moscow, USSR.

Tel. 299-88-88

299-26-04

299-29-52

299-58-93

NOVOEXPORT

Tour-85 exhibition-fair

An international exhibition-fair, Tour-85, was held in the Swedish city of Göteborg.

Intourist news

Intourist has become a regular exhibitor at these exhibitions in Sweden. The Intourist stands contained materials about the places of interest in the Soviet Union. Wide publicity was given to tours of Moldavia, the Ukraine, Sochi, Yalta, Siberia, Central Asia and visits to ancient Russian cities, art festivals and other holiday tours. Many visitors were interested to see Intourist's publicity pamphlets, such as "Leningrad", "Ancient Russian Cities", "Visit the Soviet Union" and others. Apart from all sorts of conversations, talks were held at the stand with representatives of other exhibiting firms.

The Swedish firms cooperating with Intourist discussed sales of tours. To mark the 25th anniversary since the Victory in the Great Patriotic War won by the Soviet people, the Sovetskoyair has offered a tour, Moscow — Volgograd — Minsk — Moscow.

The route offered by Fridabucc is a two-week air tour, Leningrad — Alma-Ata — Tashkent — Moscow.

Those who want to see the Golden Ring of ancient Russian cities can visit Moscow, Vladimir and Suzdal, and return to Moscow.

Trivelpreuz has suggested interesting tours of the Soviet Baltic republics.

Журнал